

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 049980

P R 240434Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4648

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9507

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: LAO MAP ASSETS

1. AS PRESENT SITUATION IN LAOS IS EVOLVING, WE FORESEE
POTENTIAL PROBLEM CONCERNING LAO MAP ASSETS CURRENTLY OR
POTENTIALLY IN THAILAND. THESE ASSETS FALL INTO TWO BROAD
CATEGORIES:

A) AIRCRAFT ALREADY IN THAILAND AT UDORN, INCLUDING:

(1) TRAINING AIRCRAFT AT TLD

5 T-28

3 O-1D/F

(2) AIRCRAFT AT THAI AM UDORN FOR MAINTENANCE

AND REPAIR:

8 T-28

3 O-1A MOD F

4 O-1F

2 C-123K

(3) ATTRITION AIRCRAFT IN FLYABLE STORAGE AT THAI AM
UDORN:

5 UH-34

1 C-47

1 T-28

B) AIRCRAFT IN LAOS THAT MIGHT BE FLOWN TO THAILAND BY
DEFECTING LAOTIAN AIR FORCE PILOTS.

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C) AIRCRAFT ALREADY IN THAILAND (PARA 1A ABOVE) ARE BEING
HELD IN PLACE FOR THE PRESENT.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE THAI ARE ALREADY IN A MAJOR
DILEMMA AS RESULT OF PRESENCE IN THAILAND OF VIETNAMESE
MASF ASSETS TO WHICH BOTH WE AND NEW REGIME IN SAIGON LAY
CLAIM. THEY ARE ALSO EMBARRASSED BY THE PRESENCE HERE OF
CAMBODIAN MAP ASSETS AS A POTENTIAL BONE OF CONTENTION OF
THE SAME KIND. TO ADD LAOS TO THIS TROUBLESOME HEAP WOULD
SURELY BE REGARDED AS BAD NEWS BY THE RTG. FOR OUR PART,
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW WE COULD RETAIN LAO AIRCRAFT
IF WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH VIENTIANE.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT: (A) IN ABSENCE OF CHANGE IN PRESENT
U.S. POSTURE VIS-A-VIS PGNU, U.S. CONTINUE QUIETLY SITTING
ON LAOTIAN ASSETS PRESENTLY AT TLD IN THAILAND, BUT NOT
ACTIVELY OPPOSE THEIR BEING MOVED TO LAOS IF PGNU CALLS THEM
UP; (B) IF OTHER ROYAL LAOTIAN AIR FORCE PLANES ARE BROUGHT
TO THAILAND BY FLEEING PILOTS, U.S. NOT RPT NOT ASSERT TITLE TO
THEM OR SEEK TO PREVENT THEIR RETURN TO LAOS IF THAI ARE
SO MINDED.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED.

5. DEPARTMENT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SECDEF AND CINCPAC.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SECDEF OR CINCPAC.

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NNN

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